

ZOEY METAL FABRICATOR APPRENTICE



What was your route into engineering?

I really enjoyed Maths & Resistant Materials at GCSE, so to do something that included these felt like a natural progression. As such, I went to City College in Southampton for two years where I studied a Level 3 BTEC in General Engineering.

From there I wasn't sure whether to go straight to work or go through the apprenticeship route. I applied to various engineering apprenticeships through the Govt website, and was lucky enough to get offered **two** apprenticeships with two different companies. For each company I was asked to go in and complete work experience so that I could see what the companies do and where I would possibly be working. I chose the role at RHH Franks as they work on different contracts so the work would be varied depending on the client.

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

We did a class visit to ExxonMobil Fawley Refinery whilst studying at college. This was really inspirational as I could see engineering in action. For me this was an insight into what I could do as a future career.

I decided to apply for an apprenticeship as this would give the hands-on experience that I enjoy, but at the same time being paid to do something that I love. I wanted to learn more, so rather than just getting a job I knew that an apprenticeship would give me the opportunity to grow and develop within a company.

What has been your personal highlight so far?

I have been able to make various items that I have given as presents. My favourite has to be the metal light-up star. I have also taken home a fire pit, a bird feeding stand, some roses and some hearts. Most of these have been additional pieces that I have manufactured in the welding rotations.

ME WITH MY METAL STAR! 

What does an average day look like for you?

I am currently completing my first year off-the-job practical training at SETA. Our time is a mixture of practical sessions and theory in the classroom. I have covered Benchfitting, Sheet Metal and Welding. Most of the time is spent in the workshop which I prefer, especially in the welding bays where I have studied three welding rotations: MMA, MIG and TIG.

My favourite was TIG welding as you have more control over the process. It allows you to take your time to get a better weld and finish. I am looking forward to putting these skills in to practice when I go out to my company.

What personal qualities do you think are important to do your job?

Communication, teamwork, perseverance, being open to learning new skills and being able to work by yourself. I will have a mentor in the workplace who I have already met and feel confident being able to ask him any questions if there is anything that I am unsure of.

